

California Department of Food & Agriculture

Minutes

of the Joint Meeting / Conference Call
of the Pierce's Disease/Glassy-winged Sharpshooter Board
and Pierce's Disease Advisory Task Force
Held on Monday, April 26, 2010
CDFA Auditorium at 1220 N Street, Sacramento, CA

PD/GWSS BOARD

Members Present: Dennis Atkinson, Greg Coleman, Pete Downs, Ben Drake*, David House*, Drew Johnson*, Brad Lange, Jim Ledbetter, Steve McIntyre, Dana Merrill*, Al Rossini, Herb Schmidt*

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Steve Schafer, Marilyn Wolf

PD ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Members Present: Larry Bezark, George Bruening*, Nat DiBuduo*, Ben Drake*, David House*, Scott Hudson, Nancy Irelan, Drew Johnson*, Corky Roche, John Snyder*, Judy Stewart-Leslie, Beth Stone-Smith, David Whitmer

Members Absent: Kevin Andrew, Ted Batkin, Joe MacIlvaine, Richard Mounts, Steve Nation, Robert Wample, David Wineman

OTHER ATTENDEES

Greg Aghazarian, Cecilia Chi-Ham, Kathy Diaz-Cretu, Tom Esser, Mike Falasco, Ken Freeze, Craig Hanes, Shine Huizar, Sue Ichiho, Paul Kronenberg, Eric Lauritzen, Janet LeMasters, Ken Mittan, Greg Morris, Gabriel Paulino, Janice Price, Stacie Oswalt, Tasha Rassuli, Ted Rieger, Carla Sanchez, Roger Spencer, Gerald Stidham, Jay Van Rein, Sean Veling, Bob Wynn

*Denotes attendance via conference call

CALL TO ORDER

PD/GWSS Board Chairperson Greg Coleman and Acting PD Advisory Task Force Chairperson Ben Drake called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Bob Wynn conducted the roll call for the PD/GWSS Board (Board) and the PD Advisory Task Force (Task Force). A quorum was present for both the Board and the Task Force. The remaining attendees made self-introductions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Gerald Stidham of Eagle America Consulting Services addressed the Board. Mr. Stidham provides consulting services to the insurance industry and is looking into the feasibility of adding coverage for vineyard crop loss due to pests and diseases. Chairperson Greg Coleman stated that the Board would take into consideration Mr. Stidham's comments.

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Chairpersons Greg Coleman and Ben Drake welcomed all attendees to the meeting. Bob Wynn introduced Greg Aghazarian, CDFA's new Deputy Secretary for Legislation and Special Assistant to the Secretary. Greg commended the Board and Task Force members for their great work and continued guidance in the fight against PD and GWSS. Bob Wynn next provided an update on Task Force membership. He reported that Craig Weaver resigned from the Task Force and David

Wineman would be resigning soon. Bob also reported on a new specialty license plate promoting California agriculture. The fees from the sale of these plates will be used to fund agricultural education programs in California. Lastly, Bob talked about the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairpersons Greg Coleman and Ben Drake asked the Board and Task Force members to review and vote on the minutes from the meeting held on January 25, 2010.

- It was moved, seconded, and unanimously passed by the Board and Task Force to approve the minutes from the January 25, 2010.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Al Rossini
Second: Dennis Atkinson
In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Schafer, Wolf

Details of Task Force Vote

Motion: Corky Roche
Second: David Whitmer
In Favor: Bezark, Bruening, DiBuduo, Drake, House, Hudson, Irelan, Johnson, Roche, Snyder, Stewart-Leslie, Stone-Smith, Whitmer
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Batkin, MacIlvaine, Mounts, Nation, Wample, Wineman

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Board and Task Force was set for Tuesday, June 29, 2010, at CDFA headquarters in Sacramento, and will convene at 10:00 am.

FISCAL UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith reported on federal funding for the program and the request for fiscal years 2009 and 2010. She noted that there were no changes in the budget since the January 2010 meeting. They are currently working on the FY 2012 budget plan. Beth noted that more justification was being requested by the Office of Management and Budget for program needs and they would be looking much closer at carryovers and surplus money. The program request still totals \$19,679,324. Sue Ichiho then gave the revenues and expenditures (R&E) report for the Pierce's Disease Control Program and the R&E summary for the PD/GWSS Board.

UPDATE ON WINEGRAPE PRODUCER REFERENDUM

Kathy Diaz-Cretu with the CDFA Marketing Branch reported on the status of the winegrape producer referendum. She said they were encouraged by the return rate of ballots and were close to achieving the 40% grower participation threshold. If they meet that threshold by April 27, they will not need to extend the voting period and the results would be available by mid-May.

PIPRA UPDATE

Gabriel Paulino provided an update on the preparation for the field trials being conducted to test grapevines developed by UC researchers to withstand Pierce's disease. He said that progress had been made in obtaining permits, conducting training, and preparing for the plantings at the UC Davis and UC Riverside sites.

RESEARCH FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Steve McIntyre led the discussion on the research funding recommendation of the CDFA PD/GWSS Board's Research Screening Committee. He said that 30 proposals had been submitted and 16 were recommended to receive funding. Of these, six were recommended to be funded by the Board, seven by the UC-PD Research Grants Program, and the remaining three by the Board if the UC-PD Program was not able to fund them. (Update: the UC-PD Program will fund these proposals.) The six proposals recommended for funding by the Board total \$865,992.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend funding six research projects totaling \$865,992 over two years, and to fund an additional three projects totaling \$621,727 if the UC-PD Research Grants Program is not able to fund them, provided that UC notified the Board by May 15, 2010 of its decision.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Al Rossini
Second: Jim Ledbetter
In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Schafer, Wolf

Details of Amendment

Motion: Al Rossini
Second: Jim Ledbetter
In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Schafer, Wolf

RESEARCH PROPOSAL – DR. RICHARD A. REDAK

Greg Morris discussed a research proposal provided by Dr. Rick Redak to quantify and assess the efficacy of insecticide residues on treated nursery stock.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend funding the research proposal entitled, "Residual Efficacy of Materials Used for Quarantine Against the Glassy-winged Sharpshooter in California's Commercial Ornamental Nurseries," by Dr. Richard A. Redak. The total amount of the contract is \$263,956 over two years.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs
Second: Al Rossini
In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Schafer, Wolf

Discussion followed about adding an amendment to the recommendation requiring that the leaf-sampling methodology used in the study be the same as what will be used by county inspectors in the field.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to add the requirement that the leaf-sampling methodology used in the study be the same as what will be used by county inspectors in the field.

Details of Board Amendment Vote

Motion: Al Rossini
Second: Pete Downs
In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, House, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: None
Absent: Andrew, Schafer, Wolf

RESEARCH DIRECTOR UPDATE

Research Director Nancy Irelan gave an update on her activities. She discussed targeted research projects and provided a handout titled "Application Summaries for Targeted Research Projects," which she had updated with new information from researchers. She had participated in the review of the submitted research proposals and also helped out with outreach activities.

OUTREACH AND EDUCATION RFP CONTRACT AND UPDATE

Craig Hanes gave an update on the RFP for a new outreach and education contract. He said bids had been received and reviewed and the bidders interviewed. The winning bid was submitted by Brown Miller Communications, Inc.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously by the Board to recommend funding a new contract for public outreach and education with Brown Miller Communications, Inc. The contract amount would be \$198,045 for the first year and \$199,070 for the second year, with an option for one additional year at \$199,100.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Al Rossini
Second: Greg Coleman
In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: House
Absent: Andrew, Schafer, Wolf

Ken Freeze of Brown Miller Communications gave an update on outreach and education activities. He talked about the various functions and activities they had been involved in, including grower expos, trade shows, speaking engagements, news clips, and articles.

FUNDING NURSERY TREATMENTS FOR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNTIES

Greg Morris presented a recommendation to the Board to establish contracts with Riverside and Ventura counties to reimburse nurseries for two treatments (one in the spring, one in the fall) applied to control glassy-winged sharpshooter. The contract amounts would be \$250,000 for Ventura County and \$50,000 for Riverside County.

- It was moved, seconded, and passed by the Board to recommend establishing and funding contracts with Riverside and Ventura counties for reimbursing nurseries for treating to control glassy-winged sharpshooter. The contract totals would be \$50,000 for Riverside County and \$250,000 for Ventura County for one year, beginning July 1, 2010.

Details of Board Vote

Motion: Pete Downs
Second: Dennis Atkinson
In Favor: Atkinson, Coleman, Downs, Drake, Johnson, Lange, Ledbetter, McIntyre, Merrill, Rossini, Schmidt
Against: None
Abstain: House
Absent: Andrew, Schafer, Wolf

AREAWIDE PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

Beth Stone-Smith introduced two USDA staff members at the meeting. Shine Huizar is Beth's office administrator and Ken Mittan works at the Arvin Biocontrol facility in the GWSS production area. Beth reported that she is now also the Field Program Manager for European grapevine moth activities in California. She gave updates on the areawide programs in Fresno, Kern, Riverside, and Tulare counties.

PDCP STAFF REPORTS

Nursery: Greg Morris provided an update on the 2010 nursery shipment activity. He said there have been over 5,700 shipments and only two rejections so far this year. For the Approved Treatment Program (ATP), there have been 2,564 shipments with a total of 700,081 plants shipped. There are seven nurseries participating in the ATP this year including a new one, Coiner Nursery from Los Angeles County.

Rapid Response: Craig Hanes gave a brief update on the rapid response program in Santa Clara County. He covered the Meridian area of San Jose where GWSS was found on 28 properties. Over 350 properties were treated with imidacloprid in April.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO C.G. SECTION 11126

N/A

RECONVENING OF PUBLIC MEETING

N/A

OTHER ITEMS

Contracts: Tom Esser said that questions had arisen recently regarding a new requirement in the state contracting process. He introduced Janice Price, Manager of the CDFA Contracts Unit, to briefly discuss this change. Janice explained the new requirement that contractors meet a 3% threshold in their contracts for services from a Disabled Veteran Business Enterprise (DVBE). She noted that if no bidders to an RFP meet this threshold, the Contracts Office can remove the DVBE requirement and reissue the RFP.

CLOSING COMMENTS AND ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted on Monday, May 17, 2010.

Janet LeMasters, Administrative Assistant
Pierce's Disease Control Program
Department of Food and Agriculture